The Sun
Oct. 1837

Lk. 18:9 He also told the following parable to certain persons who were sure of their own goodness and looked down upon everybody else.

INTRO. In all the passages read there is stated or implied an evil that is common to all classes of people, which before God is sin and which Jesus warns agains and condemns in no uncertain terms. It is selfish pride. Condemned from Gen to Revelation.

1. The rich fool who stored up treasure forhimself instead of gaining the riches of God?
   Webster's dictionary calls one who places a false and vulgar estimate on material possessions a snob.
2. Those who, regardless of their merit, sought the chief seats at the feast?
3. The pharisee who prayed by himself?and told God how muc better he was than anyone else?
4. The elder brother of the returned pridigal son?
5. The scribes who paraded in long robes, liked to be saluted in the market places, and sought the front seats in the synagogues and at banquets and offered unreal long prayers,yet oppressed the poor?

Jesus called them hypocrites, whited sepulchres and vipers. Our dictionaries call them snobs.

Thackery defined a snob as one who meanly admires a mean thing.

I. What is a mean thing? no thing is mean in itself. Nothing is mean apart from the man who makes it mean. Meanness is not in things but in men.
A man makes anything mean when he uses it to give himself airs or a position to which he has no right in ability or character. The thing may be money, or power, or religion.

The real trouble with the snob is that he fixes his gaze upon himself. He is the only person in the picture. When he looks at others it is to compare himself with them and pronounce the verdict in favor of himself his own favor. This brings us nearer to the kind of a man that Jesus had in mind. He was the religious man who had turned religion into a mean thing and was admiring it in a mean way.

The claim of religion is the claim of God in the life of man. Religion is not ...e putting of God into one's self, but the putting of self into God, giving God the central place.

When a man begins to say, "I have kept the rules, I have observed the days, I have done my duty" and a feeling of self-satisfaction creeps in, that turns religion into snobbery. Once a man begins to do that, his very soul begins to die, his spiritual development stops.

II. The pharisee who stood by himself, telling God how much better he was than others, did'nt have true religion, he was drunk with spiritual pride.

Jesus pointed out that the taxgatherer was not thinkin about himself but about God, and thinking about God he saw himself as he really was. That is why he prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner". It is healthier and saner and truer to be a confessed sinner in the presence of God than to be a professed saint in your own eyes. God can do something with the man who knows his own need, he can do nothing with the man who knows nothing only what a good fellow he himself is.

Look at Paul- first when he was a pharisee, and then after getting acquainted with Christ, the chief of sinner As a pharisee he was schooled in selfish pride. As a confessed sinner he learned what the love of God is. That is why in his letters he condemns all pride and conceit and points out that love is not puffed up and does not vaunt itself. Pride is self-centered- love is God-centered.

God is love and that is why Jesus taught us first to love God and let God rule in us, then it would follow as night follows the day that we will love our fellow men.

III. Xns are in danger of pride and snobbery in many ways.

So easy to think we active are superior
So easy to work for our own glory instead of

When the father of Queen Victoria, the duke of Kent, was on his deathbed he expressed to his physician a concern about the sta e of his soul, the doctor endeavored to soothe him by telling him how a kind providence had placed him in a position of eminence and high respectability. The sick man stopt him short, saying, "No, remember, if I am to be saved, it is not as a prince, but as a sinner."

Not false pride, but true humility
is our way to God - that one's whole life